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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6654

BILL NUMBER: SB 240

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 15, 2011

BILL AMENDED: Feb 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Speech-Language Pathologists.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Kruse

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *DOE Life License:* The bill recognizes speech-language pathologists who: (1) before September 1, 1990, completed all the course work and obtained all the experience required to receive a life license from the Department of Education (DOE); and (2) was issued a life license by the DOE; as eligible to supervise speech-language pathology support personnel (in lieu of another requirement to have obtained a certificate of clinical competence (CCC) from a nationally recognized association).

Clinical Experience: The bill removes a provision requiring that, to supervise speech-language pathology support personnel, a speech-language pathologist have at least three years of clinical experience.

VOIDS Administrative Rule: The bill voids part of an administrative rule concerning qualification requirements to supervise speech-language pathology support personnel.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010 (retroactive); July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *VOIDS Administrative Rule:* This provision would have a minimal impact on the Legislative Services Agency, which publishes the Indiana Administrative Code.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) *DOE Life License:* Under current law, persons that violate speech-language pathology law can be charged with a Class B misdemeanor. Given the bill would allow a speech-language pathologist (SLP) with a license issued prior to 9/1/1990 to supervise support personnel without a CCC-SLP, there may be a slight reduction in the number of cases involving speech-language pathologists. Fewer fines would reduce revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state

General Fund (from court fees). However, any reduction in revenue would likely be small.

Additionally, the provision would also prevent a person with a license issued prior to 9/1/1990 and without a CCC-SLP from being assessed a civil penalty for the supervision of SLP support personnel in future years. Current law requires a speech-language pathologist to have a CCC to supervise support personnel.

Background- The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. The Professional Licensing Agency may assess a maximum civil penalty of \$1,000 per violation on a person that violates a state statute regarding the regulation of a profession. Civil penalties are deposited in the state General Fund.

License Count- As of September 15, 2010, there were 2,302 speech-language pathologists with an active license, and 268 with an active license dating from prior to 1985. The number of persons with an active license dating from before 9/1/1990 is currently unknown. This fiscal impact statement will be updated when the number becomes available.

The American Speech Language Hearing Association reports that in December 2009 there were 2,144 speech-language pathologists in Indiana with a certificate of clinical competence.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: If fewer court actions occur and guilty verdicts entered, local governments would receive less revenue from court fees. However, any reduction in revenue would likely be small.

State Agencies Affected: Professional Licensing Agency; Legislative Services Agency.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Professional Licensing Agency; American Speech Language Hearing Association.

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